Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PAGE 01 STATE 303837 64 **ORIGIN EB-07** INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 STR-04 AGR-05 FEA-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /104 R DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/OFP:JAPLACKE:PDTAYLOR:JV APPROVED BY EB:JKATZ STR:BCALDWELL ARA/ECP:AFISHLOW USDA:JRIESZ EA:RIMUS ----- 056177 PR 292319Z DEC 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE AMEMBASSY CANBERRA AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON USMISSION GENEVA USDEL MTN GENEVA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 303837 E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

- 1. PRESIDENT HAS INSTRUCTED DEPARTMENT, UNDER MEAT IMPORT ACT, TO NEGOTIATE WITH PRINCIPAL MEAT EXPORTERS BILATERAL RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS COVERING MEAT EXPORTS TO U.S. DURING 1976 AT LEVEL BELOW TRIGGER POINT OF 1233 MILLION POUNDS. THIS ACTION IS NECESSITATED BY CONTINUING LARGE POTENTIAL WORLD MEAT SUPPLY AND IMPORT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED IN OTHER MAJOR MARKETS. WE EXPECT COUNTRY PERCENTAGE SHARES OF THE GLOBAL ALLOCATION TO BE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THOSE IN 1975. THE FOLLOWING CHANGES ARE ANTICIPATED: A. RECIPROCAL QUOTAS MAINTAINED BY U.S. AND CANADA ARE EXPECTED TO BE REMOVED, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1 AND NORMAL OPEN BORDER SITUATION WITH TWO-WAY TRADE IN MEAT WILL BE RESTORED. CANADIAN EXPORTS TO U.S. FOR 1976 ESTIMATED AT 70 MILLION POUNDS. B. IRELAND AND U.K. NOT EXPECTED TO BE EXPORTERS TO U.S. DURING 1976.
- 2. ON ASSUMPTION THAT VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRAINTS WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED, USDA WILL SHORTLY ANNOUNCE ESTIMATED IMPORTS FOR 1976 OF LESS THAN 1233 MILLION POUNDS. IMPORTS IN EXCESS OF TRIGGER LEVEL WOULD EVOKE MANDATORY QUOTAS AT A LEVEL ABOUT 10 PERCENT LOWER.
- 3. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS OF THE FOREGOING AND SEEK AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO CONCLUDE VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS FOR 1976. THE U.S. WILL PROPOSE SHORTLY TEXTS OF AGREEMENTS ALONG THE LINES OF THOSE CONCLUDED IN 1975. POSTS ARE REQUESTED TO REPORT THE REAACTION OF HOST GOVERNMENTS SOONEST. DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY INFORMED AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND EMBASSIES OF ITS INTENTION NEGOTIATE AGREEMENTS WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS IN WASHINGTON. WE WILL PROVIDE EMBASSIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES EARLY IN JANUARY TEXT OF NOTES TO BE DELIVERED TO HOST GOVERNMENTS. ROBINSON

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Concepts: MEATS, IMPORT CONTROLS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), NEGOTIATIONS

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